

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7203–S7433*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3323–3335, and S. Res. 622–623. **Pages S7278–79**

**Measures Reported:**

S. 2617, to increase, effective as of December 1, 2008, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 110–430) **Page S7278**

**Measures Passed:**

**Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act:** Senate passed H.J. Res. 93, approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003, clearing the measure for the President. **Page S7432**

**Measures Considered:**

**Warm in Winter and Cool in Summer Act:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 3186, to provide funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. **Pages S7207–45, S7246–70**

**Appointments:**

**Election Assistance Board of Advisors:** The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader pursuant to Public Law 107–252, Title II, Section 214, appointed the following individual to serve as a member of the Election Assistance Board of Advisors: Dr. Barbara Simons, of California. **Page S7432**

**Foreclosure Prevention Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that if the motion to invoke cloture on S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, is not agreed to and the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendments to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3221, to provide needed housing reform, is

agreed to, then post-cloture debate time on Friday, July 25, 2008, be divided in 30 minute blocks, beginning at 10 a.m. until 1 p.m., and that the Republicans control the first 30 minutes; that any time consumed during a recess or adjournment of the Senate be counted against the post-cloture time under rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate; provided further, that when the Senate convenes at 9 a.m. on Saturday, July 26, 2008, the time until 10:40 a.m. be equally divided and controlled in the usual form, the Republican Leader control the time between 10:40 a.m. and 10:50 a.m., the Majority Leader control the time between 10:50 a.m. and 11 a.m., and that at 11 a.m., all time be yielded back and Senate vote on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the House amendments to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3221; and that, if the motion is agreed to, a motion to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, and the motion to concur with an amendment be withdrawn; provided further, if the motion to invoke cloture on S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, is agreed to, then all provisions of this agreement be null and void. **Page S7433**

**Stop Excessive Energy Speculation Act—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at approximately 9:15 a.m., on Friday, July 25, 2008, Senate resume consideration of S. 3268, to amend the Commodity Exchange Act, to prevent excessive price speculation with respect to energy commodities, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill; provided further, that the time from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. be equally divided and controlled by the two Leaders in alternating 30-minute blocks of time, and that the Republicans control the first 30 minutes, and the Majority control the next 30 minutes; provided further, that Senators have until 10 a.m., on Friday, July 26, 2008 to file second-degree amendments. **Page S7433**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Paul S. Diamond, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

Mitchell S. Goldberg, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

C. Darnell Jones II, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Carolyn P. Short, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Joel H. Slomsky, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

2 Air Force nominations in the rank of general. Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy.

**Pages S7433–34**

**Nominations Withdrawn:** Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Gene E. K. Pratter, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, which was sent to the Senate on November 15, 2007.

Carolyn P. Short, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which was sent to the Senate on November 15, 2007.

**Page S7434**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S7278**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S7278**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S7279–80**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S7280–S7301**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S7277–78**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S7301–S7432**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:**

**Page S7432**

**Privileges of the Floor:**

**Page S7432**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and adjourned at 8:15 p.m., until 9:15 a.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7433.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### IRAN

*Committee on Armed Services:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on Iran from Dolores A. Powers, Deputy Iran Mission Manager, Alan R. Pino, National Intelligence Officer for the Near East, and William J. Keller, Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Weapons of Mass Destruction, all of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; Jeffrey D. Feltman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; and James R. Clapper, Jr., Under Secretary for Intelligence, Michael G. Vickers, Assistant Secretary for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict and Interdependent Capabilities, and Lieutenant General Carter F. Ham, USA, Director, J–3 Operations Directorate, Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of the Department of Defense.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS AND OFFSHORE TAX ISSUES**

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Cayman Islands, focusing on offshore tax issues, including the nature and extent of United States persons' involvement with U.S. House registered entities and the nature of such business, the reasons that U.S. persons conduct business in the Cayman Islands, information available to the U.S. government regarding U.S. persons' Cayman activities, and the U.S. government's compliance and enforcement efforts, after receiving testimony from Michael Brostek, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; Frank Ng, Commissioner, Large and Mid-Sized Businesses, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury; and Jack A. Blum, Baker and Hostetler, Washington, D.C.

### HIGHWAY PUBLIC–PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

*Committee on Finance:* Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources, and Infrastructure concluded a hearing to examine tax and financing aspects of highway public-private partnerships, including the benefits, costs, and trade-offs of highway public-private partnerships, the ways public officials have identified and acted to protect the public interest in these arrangements, and the federal role in highway public-private partnerships and potential changes in this role, after receiving testimony from Edward D. Kleinbard, Chief of Staff, Joint Committee on Taxation; Jayetta Z. Hecker, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, Government Accountability Office; Pat Choate, Manufacturing Policy Project, Washington, Virginia; Linda E. Carlisle, White and Case LLP, Washington, D.C.; and Dennis J. Enright, NW Financial, Jersey City, New Jersey.

### IMPROVING FEDERAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security concluded a hearing to examine ways to improve federal program management using performance information, after receiving testimony from Bernice Steinhardt, Director, Strategic